CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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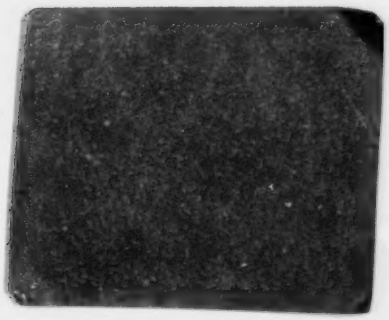
LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A COPY OF A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ISSUED IN HONOR OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

Attached is a copy of a Presidential Statement issued in honor of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Opening for Signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

I would be grateful if you would issue the statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all members States and non-member participant States of the Conference.

(Signed): Stephen J. Ledogar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

I AM PLEASED TO SEND GREETINGS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. LET ME CONGRATULATE THE STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE THAT THE TREATY WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE.

FOR THIRTY YEARS, THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO HAS STOOD AS AN IMPORTANT BARRIER TO THE FURTHER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THIS HEMISPHERE. IT REFLECTS THE EXTRAORDINARY FORESIGHT OF ITS DRAFTERS, WHO WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE POSED BY THE DANGERS OF SUCH PROLIFERATION AND TO CODIFY WHAT IS NOW AN INTERNATIONAL NORM OF NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION. THE UNITED STATES, AS A PARTY TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS, REMAINS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO THAT HAS SERVED AS INSPIRATION AND MODEL FOR OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE TREATIES.

WE CELEBRATE THIS ANNIVERSARY AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND DISARMAMENT. LAST FALL, I SIGNED FOR THE UNITED STATES THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY, WHICH WILL END ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TESTS FOR ALL TIME AND WILL HELP TO PREVENT THE NUCLEAR POWERS FROM DEVELOPING MORE ADVANCED AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS. ALSO LAST YEAR, THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES SIGNED THE PROTOCOLS TO THE TREATIES OF RARATONGA AND PELINDABA, ADDING OUR TANGIBLE SUPPORT TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES CREATED BY THESE AGREEMENTS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND AFRICA. TWO YEARS AGO, THE PARTIES TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AGREED TO EXTEND THAT TREATY INDEFINITELY, MAKING IT A PERMANENT PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE.

ALL OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS MAKE US MORE SECURE. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO LIFT THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. WE MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THIS FOUNDATION WITH PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE. IT IS MY STRONG HOPE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO NEGOTIATE A BAN ON PRODUCING FISSILE MATERIAL FOR USE IN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. THE UNITED STATES ALSO IS PREPARED TO PURSUE FURTHER

REDUCTIONS AND LIMITS ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS ONCE THE RUSSIAN DUMA APPROVES START II. AND WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY SAFEGUARDS THAT UNDERPINS BOTH THE NPT AND THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO.

THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO WAS AN HISTORIC AND EARLY STEP BY THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO STEM THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO DO ITS PART TO REDUCE AND ULTIMATELY ELIMINATE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ALL REGIONS FOR ALL TIME.